

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, PL, UR

SUBJECT: CSCE IMPLEMENTATION: NOVOSTI ACCUSES WEST IN "SPECIAL"
FOR TRYBUNA LUDU

REF WARSAW 6682

1. SUMMARY: TRYBUNA LUDU ON JANUARY 16 PUBLISHED A "SPECIAL"
NOVOSTI INTERVIEW BY CORRESPONDENT OLEG STROGANOV WITH SOVIET
FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR VSYEVOLOD
SOFINSKI GIVING THE "SOVIET POINT OF VIEW" ON CSCE
IMPLEMENTATION. DAMANDING "RECIPROCITY," THE INTER-
VIEW STRESSED SOVIET EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT CSCE AND
ACCUSED THE WEST OF DRAGGING ITS FEET AND, ESPECIALLY,
OF FAILURE TO DISSEMINATE THE CSCE FINAL ACT, THE
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BETTER TO DISTORT MEANING. AN ARTICLE THE SAME DAY

IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY ENUMERATED EFFORTS BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO IMPLEMENT CSCE, AND ANOTHER ITEM IN THE SAME ISSUE OF ZYCIE HIGHLIGHTED DIFFICULTIES ALLEGEDLY ENCOUNTERED BY A POLISH JOURNALIST IN THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE OUTSET SOFINSKI CHARGED THAT "VOICES" IN THE WEST HAVE BEEN CALLING UPON THE SOVIET UNION TO TRANSFORM ITS SYSTEM AS A PRICE OF DETENTE; THE BALANCE OF HIS PRESENTATION INVOLVED COUNTERING THIS EFFORT. HE CITED THE "TEN-YEAR" FIGHT FOR THE TEN HELSINKI PRINCIPLES AND POINTED FURTHER TO RECENT SOVIET INITIATIVES ON BEHALF OF DETENTE. STROGANOV ASSERTED THAT ONLY SIX WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE PUBLISHED THE CSCE FINAL ACT, AND THEN ONLY IN LIMITED-CIRCULATION, GOVERNMENT BULLETINS. THIS "INFORMATION VOID", HE CONTENDED, ALLOWS "CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS" AND "TENDENTIOUS JOURNALISTS" TO WARP THE MEANING OF THE CSCE TEXT TO SUIT THEIR OWN PURPOSES. SOFINSKI THEN REITERATED PREVIOUS SOVIET CLAIMS ABOUT THE "MILLIONS" OF COPIES AVAILABLE TO "EVERY READING PERSON" IN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND CONCURRED THAT THE INFORMATION VOID IN THE WEST LEADS TO FALSEHOOD, FOSTERS TALK OF "ONE-SIDED- BENEFITS ACCRUING ONLY TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AND PERMITS ATTENTION TO BE DRAWN TO IMPLEMENTATION OF ONLY CERTAIN PARTS OF THE ACT.

3. FINALLY, SOFINSKI HOMED IN ON THE ISSUE OF WORKING CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, ENUMERATING THE NUMBER OF PRESS CONFERENCES, SPECIAL VISITS, AND INTERVIEWS ARRANGED FOR THEM THERE. HE CITED THE NEW YORK TIMES COMPLAINTS ABOUT STAGE-MANAGING THESE THINGS, BUT ASSERTED THAT THE TIMES IS ALONE IN ITS CRITICISM AND THAT MOST JOURNALISTS DO NOT DEPEND FOR COPY ONLY ON INTERVIEWS WITH SOLZHENITSYN AND SAKHAROV. CITING THE SOVIET UNION'S "NEW STEPS" TO FACILITATE VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS, SOFINSKI POINTED TO THE LONG VISA WAITING TIME REQUIRED BY THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND CONCLUDED WITH A STRONG PITCH FOR "RECIPROCITY".

4. IN PASSING, SOFINSKI MADE A POINT ABOUT THE CSCE FINAL ACT WHICH WE HAD PREVIOUSLY SEEN ONLY IMPLICITLY. CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE CONTINUING IDEOLOGICAL AND CLASS STRUGGLE, HE DECLARED THAT THE ACT REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE, BUT ONLY ONE BETWEEN STATES AND NOT BETWEEN CLASSES, AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT MAKE THE COMPROMISE AT THE COST OF CONSCIENCE, PEACE, AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

5. A ZYCIE WARSZAWY CORRESPONDENT ON JANUARY 16

DESCRIBED HIS DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL US OFFICIALS WHO WERE RELUCTANT TO TALK WITH A JOURNALIST FROM POLAND. HIS ARTICLE ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE US WAS PURPORTEDLY BASED ON AN INTERVIEW FINALLY GAINED WITH A LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYMENT OFFICIAL WHO HAD THOUGHT THE JOURNALIST WAS FROM "HOLLAND" WHEN HE ACCEPTED THE APPOINTMENT.

6. THE NUMBER OF POLISH TEXTS OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT CAN BE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 15,000 TO 20,000, AT THE MOST. JUDGING FROM INQUIRIES WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT THE TEXT, IN SOME CASES ACCOMPANIED BY REQUESTS FOR COPIES, WE DOUBT THAT IT IS KNOWN TO ALL INTERESTED PEOPLE. THE FULL TEXT FIRST APPEARED HERE IN THE AUGUST 23, 1975 ISSUE OF KRONIKA, A PAP-PRODUCED WEEKLY NEWS REVIEW AIMED AT JOURNALISTS AND OFFICIALS AND AVAILABLE BY SUBSCRIPTION. SUBSEQUENTLY, A SPECIAL PAMPHLET, WIELKA KARTA POKUJU (REFTEL) APPEARED. ALTHOUGH ITS CIRCULATION WAS NOT INDICATED, ONE GUESS IS BETWEEN FIVE AND TEN THOUSAND COPIES. THE PUBLISHERS RE-09453\$)6 0)-, - 3:9,\$ 3\$8589,. FINALLY, THE TEXT APPEARED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF SPRAWY MIEDZYNARODOWE, A PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WITH A CIRCULATION OF 6,790.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AGGRESSIVE IN TONE, THE SOFINSKI INTERVIEW SEEMS TO REFLECT SOVIET DEFENSIVENESS. IT REPEATS GROSS EXAGGERATIONS ABOUT DISSEMINATION OF THE DOCUMENT IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND MAKES SOME POSSIBLY TELLING ACCUSATIONS ABOUT WESTERN SHORTCOMINGS AS WELL. BECAUSE IT SUGGESTS A GROWING SOVIET OFFENSIVE ON THESE ISSUES, WE RECOMMEND THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO STEP UP PUBLICITY OF MEASURES TAKEN
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BY THE WEST TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT. END COMMENT.

8. ACTION REQUESTED MUNICH: WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT RFE HAS BEEN BROADCASTING RECENTLY ABOUT POLISH DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT.

9. ACTION RECOMMENDED: WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT FIND ADDITIONAL WAYS OF INCREASING PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE FINAL ACT. FOR EXAMPLE, HAS THE DOCUMENT BEEN READ INTO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD? FURTHER, WE RECOMMEND THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE THROUGH RFE AND RL TO POINT OUT DISTORTIONS AND MISREPRESENTATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ARGUMENTS SOFINSKI PRESENTS.
DAVIES

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